



Veteran and Military Education Outreach at LLNL

LLNL is committed to helping veterans, active duty members, and future officers acquire critical job-related skills needed for today's workforce and to fulfill the Laboratory's mission.

Vets Make a Difference

Since its founding in 1952 at the site of an old U.S. Navy air station, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has enjoyed strong ties to the nation's armed forces. Through the decades, LLNL scientists, engineers, and technicians have worked closely with all four military branches. LLNL researchers (many of them veterans) have developed innovative, advanced technologies to identify and address threats to national security and enhance the capabilities of today's warfighters.

The Laboratory is helping returning veterans as well as student military program participants acquire the science, engineering, technology, and math (STEM) skills required by LLNL and other Bay Area high-tech employers. At the same time, LLNL is actively recruiting veterans to fill critical workforce needs. Nearly 500 veterans currently work at LLNL in virtually every discipline, and more are being recruited every day. LLNL veterans have established a strong reputation for technical excellence as well as intangible skills like leadership, problem solving, and a solid work ethic.

LLNL, as well as other high-tech Bay Area employers, has a need for talented people in numerous technical fields. In particular, LLNL managers estimate they will need to hire 300 technicians over the next few years for assignments ranging from operating the world's largest laser to developing advanced new materials.

Veteran and Military Education Programs at LLNL

- **Veteran Internship Program (VIP)**
In partnership with California community colleges and the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board, LLNL annually hosts 10 to 15 vets for 10 weeks of hands-on training in information technology, computer science, engineering, and other fields.
- **Engineering Technology Program (Vets2Tech)**
Provides veterans with education and hands-on training. (See more on reverse.)
- **Military Academic Research Associates Program**
An average of 25 to 30 cadets, midshipmen, and faculty from the military academies complete a four- to six-week summer assignment at LLNL every year.
- **ROTC Internship Program**
LLNL hosts 20 to 25 cadets and midshipmen from universities across the country for 12 weeks during the summer to support Laboratory research efforts, and an annual ROTC Day for regional students and faculty to learn more about LLNL.
- **Air Force Fellows Program**
Assigns two to four active duty majors and civilians to LLNL for a one-year period to become familiar with Stockpile Stewardship and defense-related activities.
- **Army Training with Industry Program**
Assigns one Army Environmental Science and Engineering Officer to the Laboratory's Environmental, Science, and Health office for best business practices and R&D efforts.
- **Air Force Academy Outreach Program**
Provides lectures to cadets on nuclear deterrence and associated weapons, technical, and policy issues.
- **Newly Commissioned Officer Program**
Newly Commissioned Officers participate in Livermore research programs prior to their service appointment. Fourteen have participated to date.
- **Career Skills Program**
Military service members can intern at LLNL in their last four to six months of service.



Engineering Technology Program (Vets2Tech)

Established by LLNL in 2014, the Engineering Technology Program (Vets2Tech) at Las Positas College helps veterans and minority students acquire industry-standard skills needed to enter the fast-growing field of mechanical engineering technology. The program recognizes that many veterans, despite strong leadership and problem-solving skills, lack the required math skills to enter high-paying tech jobs. Participating community colleges provide accelerated math curricula, priority registration for veterans, a tight-knit student community, and a student support specialist that provides tutoring, soft skill development, and employer engagement.

“The program has allowed me to acquire a new set of skills and see a career path I would have never considered before.”

– Jeremy Taylor, former Army staff sergeant working at NIF

Upon completing the first-year, students are provided an opportunity to work in paid internships at local employers. During their 10-week summer internship, ETP participants have hands-on opportunities to apply their knowledge and connect with traditional students. The internship covers a variety of manufacturing and research

positions including semiconductors, industrial instrumentation, bioengineering, additive manufacturing, and lasers and optics. In addition, the students receive personal coaching during their internship to ensure their successful transition into the civilian world of work. Students completing the curriculum are well positioned to work toward their Associate of Science (A.S.) degree and employment as STEM technologists. On average, 20% of graduating students go on to Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree.

Currently, about 60% of ETP participants are veterans, and the program maintains a more than 80% retention rate. Since the first graduating class in

2016, LLNL has hired more than 23 veterans and retains an average of 6 students throughout the year. To ensure that all students are placed, LLNL leads a local employer group known as Vets2Tech that hires students and graduates. The program is currently expanding to two additional community colleges in Northern California.



The Engineering Technology Program won an Award for Innovation in 2017 from the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.

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